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IRISH LACE

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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART OF THE COMMITTEE
OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,

IRISH LACE.

REPORT

UPON VISITS TO CONVENTS, CLASSES, AND SCHOOLS WHERE LACE-
MAKING AND DESIGNING FOR LACE ARE TAUGHT, AS WELL AS
UPON STEPS TAKEN FOR ASSISTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE LACE INDUSTRY IN IRELAND, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF
SPECIMENS OF RECENTLY PRODUCED LACES.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MDCCCLXXXVII

Price Two Shillings and Sixpence.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. PART OF A FICHU MADE AT THE CONVENT OF POOR CLARES, KENMARE, CO. KERRY, FROM A DESIGN BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. PURCHASED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
 2. SPECIMENS MADE BY WORKERS AT THE PRESENTATION CONVENT, YOUGHAL, CO. CORK, FROM DESIGNS BY MR. MICHAEL HAYES.
 3. PARASOL COVER MADE AT THE BATH AND SHIRLEY SCHOOLS, CARRICKMACROSS, CO. MONAGHAN, FROM A DESIGN BY MR. MICHAEL HAYES. PURCHASED BY MRS. ALFRED MORRISON.
 4. BORDER MADE BY WORKERS AT CAPPOQUIN, CO. WATERFORD, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MISS KEANE, FROM A DESIGN ADOPTED BY MISS KEANE.
 5. FLOUNCE MADE BY WORKERS AT LIMERICK, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MRS. R. VERE O'BRIEN, FROM A DESIGN BY MISS AGNES FARMAN, LEICESTER SCHOOL OF ART. SPECIMENS PURCHASED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN, AND MRS. ALFRED MORRISON.
 6. PART OF AN ALB MADE BY WORKER AT ST. MARTHA'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, MERRION, CO. DUBLIN, FROM A DESIGN BY MR. MICHAEL HAYES.
 7. COVER FOR BACK OF SOFA MADE AT THE BATH AND SHIRLEY SCHOOLS, CARRICKMACROSS, CO. MONAGHAN, FROM A DESIGN BY MR. MICHAEL HAYES. PURCHASED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
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IRISH LACE.

REPORT (a) upon Visits to Convents, Classes, and Schools where
Lace-making and Designing for Lace are taught, as well as
(b) upon steps taken for assisting the development of the
Lace Industry in Ireland, with illustrations of specimens of
recently produced laces.

I beg leave to report that I visited LIMERICK on the 11th October 1886, and saw the work in hand by lace-makers employed under the supervision of Mrs. R. Vere O'Brien. New designs are being used, and commissions have been successfully executed for H.M. the Queen, the Countess of Aberdeen, and Mrs. Alfred Morrison. Mrs. O'Brien now gets some few designs from the Cork School of Art, and has induced the Convent of the Good Shepherd to take up with the Limerick lace embroidery more seriously than heretofore. She looks forward to being able to transfer the organisation, whose growth she has superintended, to commercial management.

October 1886,
Limerick.

The leading drapers and milliners (Messrs. Channock) informed me that the sale of the less expensive laces they produce has considerably increased within the last year or so. It would appear that altogether some 110 scattered workers are here, now finding employment in the Limerick lace-making.

TRALEE PRESENTATION CONVENT. 12th October. Not much progress in lace-making has been made here; but the art class is flourishing, and some successful attempts to design patterns for lace have been made during the past year.

Tralee Presentation Convent.

On the 13th October, at the request of the PRESENTATION CONVENT at DINGLE, I gave a lecture upon various methods of lace-making and embroidery, which was attended by 180 persons.

Dingle Presentation Convent.

On the 15th October, in company with Mr. Brennan, R.H.A., I visited the PRESENTATION CONVENT at KILLARNEY. A few designs for lace were in hand. The convent intends to give its attention more particularly to the "Reticella" class of lace work.

Killarney Presentation Convent.

At KENMARE, on the 16th, we visited the CONVENT of POOR CLARES. The drawing classes are in a satisfactory state. Lace is now made from new designs only, and three or four of them are in constant demand by customers. The demand for lace from this convent is stronger and more regular than it has been for some time. Sales have increased within the last two or three years. A larger profit has been made this year than last, and orders to keep the lace workers employed until over March 1887 were in hand. One of the prize designs (1886) is being worked for Mrs. Alfred Morrison.

Kenmare Convent of Poor Clares.

CORK. 18th October. I visited the designing class of the CRAWFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL OF ART, and gave a clinical discourse. In the afternoon I gave the first of the public lectures which had been announced. It was well attended. (See Cork newspapers for 19th October.)

Cork, Crawford Municipal School of Art.

19th October. With Mr. Brennan I went to the URSULINE CONVENT at BLACKROCK, CORK. Crochet is made here. But little or no progress has been made in using or in producing new designs. I left one of Mr. M. Hayes' designs to be experimented with. A desire was expressed to undertake the making of new designs, but circumstances have not hitherto been favourable to its realization.

Ursuline Convent, Blackrock.

Later on I visited the ST. VINCENT'S CONVENT, CORK. A needlepoint Lace Class has been formed, and the specimens of work shown give promise of good results. The art class hopes in time to produce designs for the workers. It has, however, only just been started.

St. Vincent's Convent, Cork.

October 20th. I gave my second lecture at CORK. (See Cork newspapers for 20th and 21st October.)

Youghal. Presentation Convent.

October 21st. In company with Mr. Brennan I visited the art class and lace school at the PRESENTATION CONVENT, YOUGHAL. The output of lace here has latterly declined, but through the art class and the use of new patterns it is hoped that new life may be given to the industry. The lace-makers have commenced to make one or two specimens from new patterns (from the competition of 1886). The sales have shown a slight increase during the last few months. I gave a lecture to the lace-makers and others.

Cappoquin. Miss Keane's School.

October 23rd. I lectured at CAPPOQUIN HOUSE to an audience of lace-makers under Miss Keane's supervision, and some ladies and gentlemen from the neighbourhood. Some good reproductions of Italian 16th century laces are made here.

Waterford School of Art.

October 25th. I visited the WATERFORD SCHOOL OF ART; but little work is done here in the direction of lace patterns. In the evening I lectured to the students of the art class and members of the community at the URSULINE CONVENT, WATERFORD.

Ursuline Convent.

New Ross. Carmelite Convent.

With Mr. Murphy, of the Waterford School of Art, I visited the CARMELITE CONVENT at NEW ROSS. The members of the art class showed me some experimental designs which they had made, as well as various pieces of raised needlepoint lace and crochet. I left a few prize designs to be worked here.

Cabra. Dominican Convent.

27th October. I visited the DOMINICAN CONVENT at CABRA, near DUBLIN, and saw the class of deaf and dumb children and adults at work on various kinds of lace. But the want of better patterns will, I fear, stand in the way of success. There was some talk about forming an art class. I gave a "clinical" discourse, illustrating it with photographs of old laces, to some of the members of the community.

Merrion. St. Martha's Industrial School.

I next visited ST. MARTHA'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL at MERRION, and saw the work in hand, which is being made from new patterns. I left some other patterns, which are to be taken in hand as soon as possible.

Portarlinton. Mountmellick embroidery.

October 28th. At PORTARLINTON I attended a meeting of ladies at the house of the Rev. Mr. Cole. Mrs. Torrens, Mrs. Stokes, and others are interested in giving a new impetus to the Mountmellick embroidery upon stout linen. Much, no doubt, can be done through the use of new patterns. There seems, however, but little chance of forming an organization for the supply and production of new patterns. Innovations are regarded with timidity.

Dublin.

29th October. I lectured in DUBLIN at the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT before her Excellency the Marchioness of Londonderry and a considerable audience, illustrating my lecture with enlarged photographs of the specimens of Irish lace made from new patterns during 1885 and 1886, and comparing them with earlier specimens. (See Dublin newspapers 30th October and 1st November.) On the conclusion of the lecture her Excellency expressed her intention of offering prizes for border lace and a flounce to match, to be worked in Carrickmacross.

Prizes offered by her Excellency the Marchioness of Londonderry. Of the Prize Competition.

ALAN S. COLE.

January 1887.

Laces being made from new patterns for Her Majesty the Queen, and others.

Altogether 12 Prize Designs from the competition for 1886, each of comparative importance in size, have been placed at the various convents for execution at their own risk. Besides these, four or five are being worked as commissions for Her Majesty the Queen, her Excellency the Marchioness of Londonderry (whose prizes for designs were awarded in December last), and Mrs. Alfred Morrison. Messrs. Haywards have also undertaken to get six Prize Designs (selected from those sent in for competition in 1885 and 1886) carried out in different sorts of lace. All these when finished may, therefore, with those done in 1885, form the nucleus of a collection for an exhibition of Irish laces at some future date.

The Private Committee for promoting the Irish Lace Fund approved of a second competition, which was held in 1886, for prizes to the value of 64*l.* 5*s.* offered for designs for Irish lace.

Private Committee's work, and 2nd Competition for prizes for Designs.

The Committee's offer was responded to by 67 competitors, who submitted upwards of 200 designs. Lady Dorothy Nevill, the Hon. Mrs. Albert Petre, Mrs. Alfred Morrison, and Mr. T. Armstrong, Director for Art, kindly examined the designs, and selected such as were considered to be deserving of reward. At the same time they expressed the opinion that the designs selected were of even merit, and none of them were of peculiar distinction. The award of prizes as originally contemplated could not therefore be made. In lieu of the announced prizes the following prizes were offered and accepted by the various competitors concerned.

LIST OF SUBJECTS AND PRIZES.

Article.	Prizes originally offered.	Prizes actually awarded.
VI. Child's collar and cuffs, or lady's plastron and cuffs <i>en suite</i> . Design for above.	Two of 3 <i>l.</i> each set - One of 2 <i>l.</i> One of 1 <i>l.</i>	For child's collar and cuffs-- 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Margaret Fitzgerald of Tralee. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Michael Hayes of London. 1 <i>l.</i> to Miss Lyons of London. 15 <i>s.</i> to Miss Tuckey of Cork. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to L. Giusani of Kenmare. For lady's plastron and cuffs-- 2 <i>l.</i> to B. Murphy of Killarney. 2 <i>l.</i> to Miss Lyons of London. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to M. Courtenay of Kenmare. 1 <i>l.</i> to Miss F. Brophy of London. 1 <i>l.</i> to Miss Beatson of Cork. 1 <i>l.</i> to Miss Farman of Leicester. 1 <i>l.</i> to Thomas Scott of Cork.
VII. Handkerchief borders. Designs for above, including two corners each of which must be different.	Two of 3 <i>l.</i> each - One of 2 <i>l.</i> One of 1 <i>l.</i>	For handkerchief borders-- 2 <i>l.</i> to Emily Anderson of Cork. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Miss F. A. Brophy of London. 1 <i>l.</i> to A. G. Bradish of Cork. 1 <i>l.</i> to Michael Hayes of London. 1 <i>l.</i> to Michael Hayes of London. An extra prize of 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> was offered to Lizzie Perry of Cork.
VIII. Vest or gilet. Designs for above - " -	One of 3 <i>l.</i> " - One of 1 <i>l.</i> " -	For vest or gilet-- 2 <i>l.</i> to Miss Lyons of London. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to G. Smith of Kenmare.
IX. Panel for ladies' dresses. Designs for above - " -	One of 5 <i>l.</i> " - One of 3 <i>l.</i> " -	For panel for ladies' dresses-- 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to A. G. Bradish of Cork. 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Miss Farman of Leicester. 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to A. J. Sothers of London. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Mary Anne Healey of Tralee.
X. Borders for dress trimmings. Two widths, 4 inches and 9 inches respectively, of at least 30 inches in length, without repetition of similar details.	Two of 3 <i>l.</i> each set - One of 2 <i>l.</i> " " One of 1 <i>l.</i> " "	For borders for dress trimmings-- 2 <i>l.</i> to Emily Anderson (for set) of Cork. 1 <i>l.</i> to Helen E. Wilkinson of Stockwell. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Michael Hayes of London.

Article.	Prizes originally offered.	Prizes actually awarded.
XI. Flounces for ladies' dresses.		
a. A length of at least a yard by 36 inches deep.	One of 7 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	(a.) For flounce 36 inches deep— 3 <i>l.</i> to Lizzie Perry of Cork.
b. A length of at least a yard by 24 inches deep.	One of 5 <i>l.</i>	(b.) For flounce 24 inches deep— 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Michael Hayes of London. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Lizzie Trappes of Kenmare. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Miss Farman of Leicester. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Thomas Scott of Cork.
c. A length of at least a yard by 12 inches deep.	One of 3 <i>l.</i>	(c.) For flounce 12 inches deep— 1 <i>l.</i> to B. Courtenay of Kenmare. 1 <i>l.</i> to E. Anderson of Cork. 1 <i>l.</i> to A. J. Sothers of London.
XII. Limerick embroidery.		
a. Borders and insertions, 4 inches and 9 inches wide for trimming purposes; a length of 12 inches for each insertion and border to be used as a repeating pattern would suffice.	One of 2 <i>l.</i> and one of 1 <i>l.</i> for a set of insertions and borders.	(a.) For borders and insertion for Limerick work— 2 <i>l.</i> to Michael Hayes of London. (Second prize withheld.)
b. Cushion cover with a border and central panel.	One of 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> One of 15 <i>s.</i>	(b.) For cushion cover, &c.— 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Michael Hayes of London. 15 <i>s.</i> to T. W. Brophy of London.
c. Toilet cover and doyleys, with borders and inserted panels.	One of 3 <i>l.</i> for a set. One of 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> for a set.	(c.) For toilet cover and doyleys— 3 <i>l.</i> to Michael Hayes of London. 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> to Miss Brophy of London.

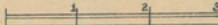
With this report are issued seven illustrations made from specimens of different sorts of Irish lace produced from some of the Prize designs above referred to.

IRISH LACE.

FLAT NEEDLE POINT LACE.



1885.

Scale  inches.

PART OF A FICHU MADE AT THE CONVENT OF POOR CLARES, KENMARE, CO., KERRY.

FROM A DESIGN BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

PURCHASED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

IRISH LACE.

FLAT NEEDLE POINT LACE.




IRISH LACE.

CUT LINEN EMBROIDERY. CARRICKMACROSS WORK.



1887

Scale  inches.

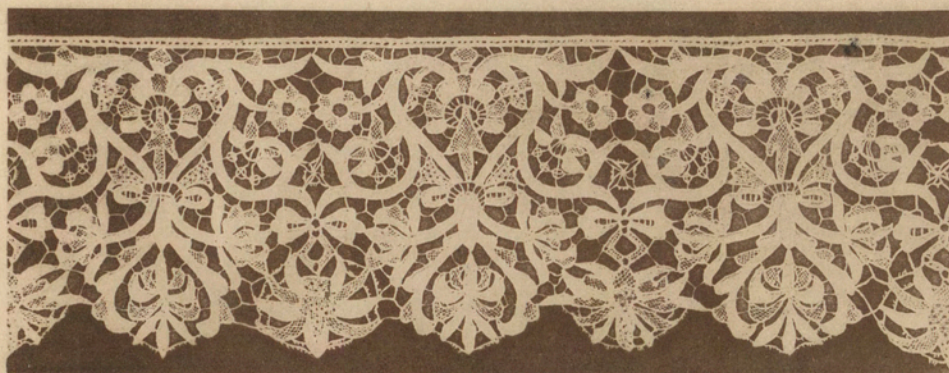
PARASOL COVER MADE AT THE BATH AND SHIRLEY SCHOOLS CARRICKMACROSS, CO. MONAGHAN.

FROM A DESIGN BY MR. MICHAEL HAYES.

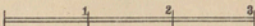
PURCHASED BY MRS. ALFRED MORRISON.

IRISH LACE.

NEEDLE POINT LACE.



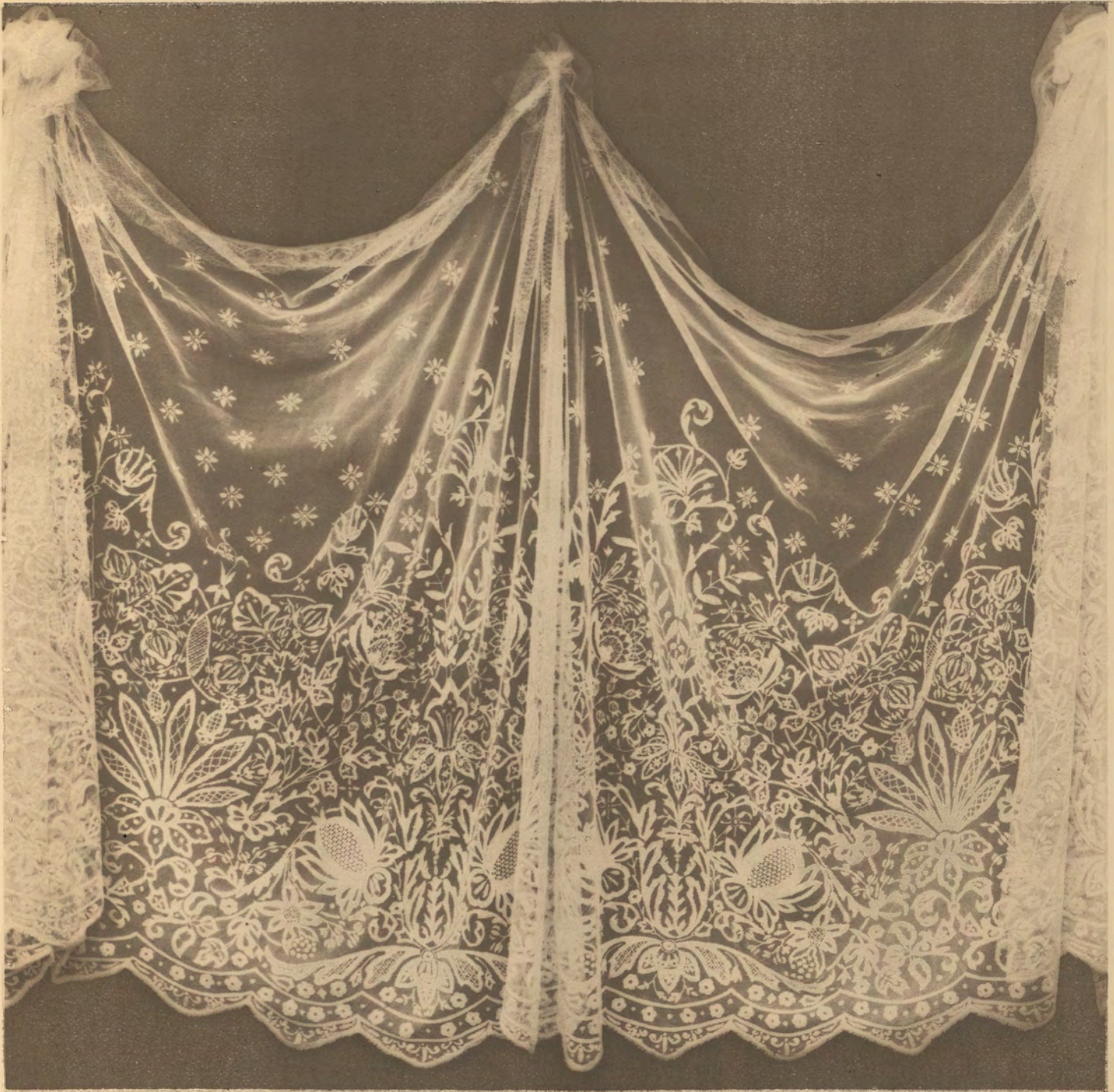
1886.

Scale  inches.

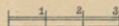
BORDER MADE BY WORKERS AT CAPPOQUIN, CO. WATERFORD, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MISS KEANE,
FROM A DESIGN ADAPTED BY MISS KEANE.

IRISH LACE.

EMBROIDERY ON NET. LIMERICK (TAMBOUR) LACE.



1886.

Scale  inches.

FLOUNCE MADE BY WORKERS AT LIMERICK UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MRS. R. VERE O'BRIEN,
FROM A DESIGN BY MISS AGNES FARMAN, LEICESTER SCHOOL OF ART.

SPECIMENS PURCHASED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN, AND MRS. ALFRED MORRISON.

IRISH LACE.

"LACET" WORK. (BRAID AND NEEDLEPOINT STITCHES.)



Scale  inches.

1886.

PART OF AN ALB MADE BY WORKERS AT ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, MERRION, CO. DUBLIN,

FROM A DESIGN BY MR. MICHAEL HAYES.

IRISH LACE.

CUT LINEN EMBROIDERY. CARRICKMACROSS WORK.



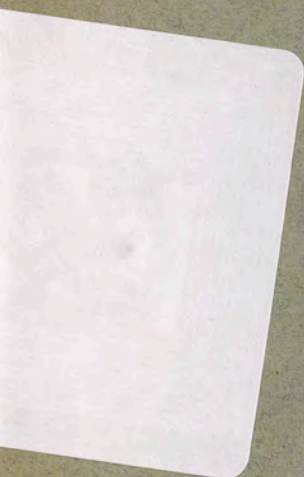
Scale  inches.

COVER FOR BACK OF SOFA MADE AT THE BATH AND SHIRLEY SCHOOLS, CARRICKMACROSS, CO. MONAGHAN.

FROM A DESIGN BY MR. MICHAEL HAYES.

PURCHASED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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